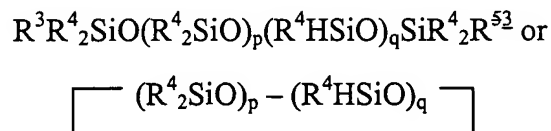


**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] A suitable silane which may serve as cross-linking organosilicon compound is methyltrihydrosilane. Suitable organosilicon resin compounds include organosilicon resins consisting mainly of tetrafunctional siloxane units of the formula  $\text{SiO}_{4/2}$  and monofunctional units  $\text{R}_v\text{H}_w\text{Si}_{1/2}$ , wherein R is as defined above,  $v$  and  $w$  each have a value of from 0 to 3, the sum of  $v+w$  being 3. Suitable short chain organosiloxane polymers include those having at least 3 silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule and may be linear or cyclic. Preferred organosilicon cross-linkers have the general formula



wherein  $\text{R}^4$  denotes an alkyl or aryl group having up to 10 carbon atoms,  $\text{R}^3$  is a group  $\text{R}^4$  or a hydrogen atom,  $p$  has a value of from 0 to 20,  $q$  has a value of from 1 to 70, and there are at least 3 silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms present per molecule. It is not crucial but preferred that the silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms are on terminal silicon atoms for linear siloxane compounds. It is preferred that  $\text{R}^4$  denotes a lower alkyl group having no more than 3 carbon atoms, most preferably a methyl group.  $\text{R}^3$  preferably denotes an  $\text{R}^4$  group. Preferably  $p = 0$  and  $q$  has a value of from 2 to 70, more preferably 2 to 30, or where cyclic organosilicon materials are used, from 3 to 8. It is most preferred that the organosilicon crosslinker is a siloxane polymer having a viscosity of from 1 to 150  $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$  at 25°C, more preferably 2 to 100  $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ , most preferably 5 to 60  $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ . The cross-linking organosilicon compound may comprise a mixture of several materials as described.